

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of September 11-September 15, 2006**

1. **New City Arborist:** Todd Bolton will begin with the City on September 25. Todd has most recently been a water resource specialist with the Virginia Department of Transportation, prior to that he was the Manager of the Natural Resource Protection Group with the Fairfax County Park Authority. *(Public Works)*
2. **Officers in Training:** Two investigators attended training offered by the Frederick Police Department on Deadly Force and Officer Involved Shooting Investigations. Interim Chief Coursey attended the four-day annual Maryland Chiefs of Police Conference. Lt. Cipperly and Ms. Bannerman attended the quarterly meeting of the Maryland Association of Police Planners at the Maryland State Police on Friday morning. *(Police)*
3. **New Recruit:** Walter Smith, a Maryland certified police officer with 10 years experience, was sworn in as an officer by Mayor Porter on Wednesday evening. He will be in field training with Sgt. Frishkorn's squad for 90 days. *(Police)*
4. **Joint Roll Call:** Officers attended the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE joint roll call this week attended also by officers from Montgomery and Prince George's County police. The joint roll call allows for sharing of information regarding crimes and issues across jurisdictional lines. *(Police)*
5. **The Police at TPFF:** Officers and civilians staffed a booth and participated in the Takoma Park Folk Festival on Sunday. *(Police)*
6. **The Chief's Dinner:** The retirement dinner for Chief Cindy Creamer will take place Thursday, November 9, at the Sheraton College Park, Beltsville, on Powdermill Road at I95. More complete information will be forthcoming, but please note this date for your planning purposes. *(Police)*
7. **Shift Change:** Changeover will take place this week, with Squads 1 and 3 (Sgt. Bowers and Frishkorn) moving to the day shift and Squads 2 and 4 (Sgt. Hammond and Skibicki) moving to the evening shift (8 p.m. to 8 a.m.). This should be considered when attempting to reach these officers. The schedule will be in effect until October 29. *(Police)*
8. **Crime Report:** On September 9, 2006 at approximately 5:00am, patrol officers responded to a burglary alarm at The Spanish Catholic Center, 1015 University Blvd. They spotted a suspect exiting the rear of the building and, after a brief chase, the subject was arrested. Additional businesses were also burglarized at 1017 and 1019 University Blvd which are believed to be linked to the suspect. The suspect was charged with 2nd degree burglary and malicious destruction of property. Investigation is on going. *(Police)*
9. **ICMA Conference:** City Manager Barb Matthews and Community and Government Liaison Suzanne Ludlow attended the International City/County Management Association conference in San Antonio earlier this week. Workshops on police services, immigration issues, improving services to the elderly, and office management were of particular interest. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

10. **Ana's Cafe:** A hearing regarding an application for a beer and wine license for Ana's Cafe on University Boulevard is scheduled for 8:30 am on Thursday, September 21. Hearings will be held in the 3rd Floor Hearing Room of the County Council Office Building in Rockville. Letters regarding the application may be sent to Sheila Boland, Chairman, Board of License Commissioners, 16650 Crabbs Branch Way, Rockville, MD 20855. A previous alcoholic beverage license at the property was revoked due to problems at the restaurant. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

11. **Cable Franchise Agreement:** Verizon has reached a tentative agreement with the Montgomery County Executive Branch for a Cable Franchise Agreement. The County Executive will be holding a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 28th. Staff are working with attorneys, the County Cable Office and the other Participating Municipalities to review the Proposed Franchise Agreement. The County press release can be found at:

[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/News/press/PR\\_details.asp?PrID=2582](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=2582).

This page also provides links to the proposed Franchise Agreement and other documents. Staff will be briefing Takoma Park City Council members at the September 25th Council meeting. Staff are seeking public and Council comments (please email [LonniM@takomagov.org](mailto:LonniM@takomagov.org)). *(City TV)*

12. **Poetry Reading (City-wide):** The work of Lara Payne and Anne Becker were featured in this month's poetry reading. The event was well attended with twenty individuals enjoying both the reading and the following reception. The next reading is scheduled for Thursday, October 19 and will feature the poetry of Matthew Salomon and Mary Carter Williams. Submissions for consideration for the second half of the series are due October 11. Inquiries regarding the series and the current call for poets should be directed to [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org) *(Housing and Community Development)*

13. **Home Buyer Seminar - Spanish Language (City-wide):** The City of Takoma Park in partnership with the Latino Economic Development Corporation will be sponsoring a First Time Home Buyer Seminar this Saturday, September 16 from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. The seminar will be conducted in Spanish. This program is free to all Takoma Park residents. Some topics to be discussed include Establishing and Maintaining your Credit, How to Apply for a Mortgage, and Learning about the State of Maryland's More House For Less Program. The same program will be conducted in English on Saturday, October 21. To register, please call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. **Enterprise Zone Meeting (Wards 2, 3, and 6):** The HCD Department held an Enterprise Zone meeting for businesses in the area of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard on Tuesday, September 12th. Sheila Woodard, of Woodard & Associates, presented information on budgeting and bookkeeping for small businesses and Sgt. Gilbert of Takoma Park Police gave an update on area criminal activity. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**15. Leading Economic Development in the Community (City-wide):** Housing staff David Suls and Linda Walker attended the opening of the new Wheaton offices of Leading Economic Development in the Community (LEDC) on Friday, September 8. LEDC works extensively with the Latino population in DC and now plans to provide services in Montgomery County. Takoma Park has already contracted with LEDC to provide First Time Home Buyer training to Takoma Park residents, but is looking forward to working with them on other projects dealing with economic development and affordable housing in the near future. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**16. Rent Stabilization - Hardship Rent Increase Petition (Ward 4):** A hardship rent increase petition was filed on September 8, 2006 by Park Ritchie Apts. Joint Venture, c/o Southern Management, owner of the Park Ritchie Apartments located at 7600 Maple Avenue. The owner is asking for a 38% increase in rents. The petition is being reviewed and will be sent to COLTA's rents analyst for evaluation. If approved, the maximum rent increase allowed by the code would be 15% per year. All documents submitted by either the owner or the tenants are considered public information. To view the documents, please contact Jean Kerr at 301.891.7216. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**17. Landlord Tenant Affairs - Utility Surveys (City-wide):** Staff is completing the review of utility surveys sent to all owners of rental property in Takoma Park in July. The surveys provide detailed information regarding whether the rents include or do not include the cost of the various utilities in the building. This information will be helpful when Council reviews the Rent Stabilization Law and discusses the possibility of implementing Utility Surcharges for those properties where utilities are included in the rent. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**18. Opening Reception for Current Community Center Exhibit (City-Wide):** An opening reception celebrating the work of Ms. Laura Chassy will be held this coming Saturday, September 16 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Ms. Chassy's prints - on display at the Community Center throughout the month of September - feature people and places she "has a good mood for." *(Housing and Community Development)*